

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. The specification has been amended to improve readability. Claims 1-24 were pending in the present PCT application. By virtue of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 5, 9, 15, 19, 21, 23 and 24 have been cancelled, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10-14, 16-18, 20 and 22 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10-14, 16-18, 20 and 22 are currently under consideration. No new matter has been added. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

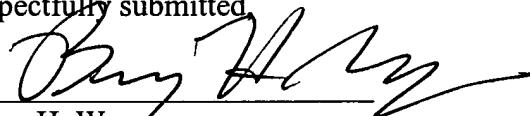
**CONCLUSION**

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 562492006700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: February 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted

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